

Here the valley spreads out, and is cultivated with barley fields with willow groves on the borders.

In the afternoon while I was examining a nest of *P. sirdianus*, a large black & white bird flew overhead, calling. It landed on a branch of a willow tree, 20 feet from the ground. It perched in strong sunlight for 6-7 minutes, before making a dash to the next willow tree. To my amazement I found it to be a Pied-crested cuckoo (*Clamator jacobinus*) which could be mistaken here for a Pied magpie (*Pica pica*), at a casual glance. But closer scrutiny settled the doubt. As I am very familiar with this cuckoo in the plains, I did not hesitate to put it down as Pied-crested cuckoo (*C. jacobinus*). Its distinctive calls further aided the identification. This bird was later heard call-

3, ROCKY HILL,
MALABAR HILL, BOMBAY 400 006,
July 10, 1985.

15. SIGHTING OF BLACKNAPED ORIOLE

While on a visit to Karnala Bird Sanctuary on 25th November 1985 I and Miss Nita Mehta spotted a group of Blacknaped Orioles (*Oriolus chinensis*) flying around and calling in the teak plantation and other trees growing near a dammed stream. The sighting of Blacknaped Oriole reported around Bombay in 1944 and 1946 in HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN by Salim Ali and S. Dillon Ripley and "Checklist of the Birds of Maharashtra" by Humayun Abdulali were reported as RS (Stray Record). However, a few specific observations made during the sighting are as under:

1) All the birds observed, four in all, had

8/A, DEVYANI APARTMENTS,
M. G. ROAD,
BORIVLI (EAST), BOMBAY 400 066,
December 7, 1985.

ing in the next willow grove. It was giving the same plaintive calls as it gives in plains, when it arrives in the monsoons.

The distribution of this cuckoo is given by Ali & Ripley (HANDBOOK Vol. 3) as "West Pakistan & Northern India, Sind, Punjab, Gilgit, Kashmir, U.P. . . .". "Vagrants have been recorded from Tingri (4270 m) in Tibet and below Rohtang pass in Himachal Pradesh at 3800 m". The distribution and migration of this cuckoo is not clear and is very ambiguous. Its worth noting that the forest department, in recent years has undertaken large scale afforestation programmes, which has drastically changed the ecology of the valley. Occurrence of this species in the area where it has never been recorded before, is possibly linked with the above factor.

NITIN JAMDAR

olive green/grey back with black on wings and tail. Incidentally, this plumage is that of female and immature *Oriolus chinensis diffusus* reported for this region.

2) The birds had narrower line running through their eyes and round the nape than reported for *Oriolus chinensis diffusus* and more like that of Slenderbilled Blacknaped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis tenuirostris*. Further, none of the Orioles observed had any streaks on plumage.

However, the Orioles considering the distribution could only be *Oriolus chinensis diffusus* and it would be of interest if observations are made on immature plumage of the blacknaped oriole and forwarded to BNHS.

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